

Message Text

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TO AMEMBASSY LONDON IMMEDIATE

INFO AMEMBASSY MASERU PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 236780

HOLD FOR ARRIVAL OF ASSISTANT SECRETARY SCHAUFLE, SEPT 24

E.O. 11652:GDS

TAGS: PFOR, LT, US

SUBJECT:CHECKLIST AND BRIEFING MEMORANDUM: ASSISTANT
SECRETARY SCHAUFLE'S VISIT TO LESOTHO AND MEETING WITH
PRIME MINISTER JONATHAN

REF: (A) SECTO 27208; (B) MASERU 1064

1. PARTICIPANTS:

US - ASST. SEC. SCHAUFLE; BIRNEY STOKES, CHARGE D'AFFAIRES
AD INTERIM AMEMBASSY MASERU. LESOTHO - PRIME MINISTER
LEABUA JONATHAN; FOREIGN MINISTER CHARLES D. MOLAPO.

2. CHECKLIST:

-- CONGRATULATIONS ON THE TENTH ANNIVERSARY OF YOUR INDE-
PENDENCE.
-- SOUTHERN AFRICA - REVIEW RECENT DEVELOPMENTS IN THE AREA
AND PROGRESS IN NEGOTIATIONS.
-- TRANSKEI INDEPENDENCE - EXPLAIN THAT WE ARE STILL STUDY-
ING THE SITUATION AND WILL TAKE HIS VIEWS INTO CONSIDERATION.
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-- US ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE TO LESOTHO - REAFFIRM OUR COMMIT-

MENT TO ASSIST LESOTHO WITH IT'S ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT.

3. BRIEFING MEMORANDUM: YOUR VISIT TO LESOTHO, OCTOBER 3-5.

4. PURPOSE:

- TO BRIEF JONATHAN ON THE STATUS OF OUR NEGOTIATIONS WITH OTHER AFRICAN LEADERS.
- TO ASSURE JONATHAN WE VALUE HIS PERSPECTIVE ON SOUTHERN AFRICA.
- TO REAFFIRM OUR COMMITMENT TO ASSIST LESOTHO WITH ITS ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT.

5. SETTING:

IN TEN YEARS OF INDEPENDENCE, LESOTHO'S PROBLEMS HAVE NOT CHANGED. ITS LEADERS ARE PREPARING TO CELEBRATE TEN YEARS OF INDEPENDENCE, BUT THEY CONTINUE TO FACE THE ACUTE POVERTY AND LACK OF RESOURCES WHICH HAS MADE THEIR COUNTRY WEAK AND DEPENDENT ON ITS NEIGHBOR, SOUTH AFRICA. THEIR PROBLEMS HAVE BEEN ACCENTUATED BY THE RIOTS AND UNREST IN SOUTH AFRICA. THESE COULD HAVE A DIRECT, ADVERSE EFFECT ON LESOTHO'S ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND INTERNAL STABILITY. CONTINUATION OF THE SOUTH AFRICAN TROUBLES COULD DISRUPT THE EMPLOYMENT OF SOME 200,000 BASOTHO WORKERS IN SOUTH AFRICA, TO THE EXTENT THAT THEY WERE FORCED TO RETURN TO LESOTHO. THIS WOULD HAVE A SEVERE IMPACT ON LESOTHO'S ECONOMY, AS WELL AS ON THE STABILITY OF JONATHAN'S GOVERNMENT.

JONATHAN HAS BEEN CRITICAL OF THE SECRETARY'S INITIATIVES IN SOUTHERN AFRICA ALTHOUGH HE HAS NOT BEEN HEARD FROM SINCE THE BEGINNING OF THE SECRETARY'S MOST RECENT TRIP. THIS CRITICISM MOST LIKELY STEMS FROM JONATHAN'S NATURAL PREOCCUPATION WITH CONDITIONS WITHIN SOUTH AFRICA AND HIS PIQUE AT NOT BEING CONSULTED.

6. STRATEGY:

CONVINCE JONATHAN OF OUR SINCERITY BY EXPLAINING THE STATUS
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OF OUR TALKS WITH OTHER AFRICAN LEADERS, AND OUR ASPIRATIONS FOR A PEACEFUL SETTLEMENT ACHIEVED IN A SPIRIT OF COMPROMISE.

7. COURTESY POINT:

- CONGRATULATIONS ON THE CELEBRATION OF YOUR TENTH ANNIVERSARY OF INDEPENDENCE. WE ARE HOPEFUL THAT THE NEXT

DECADE WILL BRING INCREASED PEACE AND PROSPERITY TO LESOTHO AND TO ALL OF SOUTHERN AFRICA.

8. ISSUES AND TALKING POINTS

A. SOUTHERN AFRICA

BACKGROUND: PRIME MINISTER JONATHAN HAS SAID THAT HE WANTS TO DISCUSS RECENT SOUTHERN AFRICAN DEVELOPMENTS WITH YOU DURING YOUR VISIT TO MASERU.

HE SEES LITTLE PROSPECT FOR A CHANGE IN THE ATTITUDE OF THE AFRIKANERS IN SOUTH AFRICA. WITHOUT SUCH CHANGE IN THE NEXT FIVE YEARS, HE BELIEVES MASSIVE RACIAL VIOLENCE IS INEVITABLE. JONATHAN IS HOPEFUL THAT THE US WILL USE ITS INFLUENCE TO PERSUADE PRIME MINISTER VORSTER TO CHANGE THE APARTHEID SYSTEM, IN ORDER TO AVOID WIDESPREAD VIOLENCE

YOUR TALKING POINTS

-- LET ME BRIEF YOU ON THE PROGRESS OF OUR EFFORTS TO ACHIEVE MAJORITY RULE IN SOUTHERN AFRICA.

-- I WOULD APPRECIATE YOUR PERSPECTIVE ON DEVELOPMENTS IN SOUTH AFRICA.

B. TRANSKEI INDEPENDENCE

BACKGROUND: THE TRANSKEI IS SCHEDULED TO BECOME INDEPENDENT OCTOBER 26. SOUTH AFRICA WOULD REGARD RECOGNITION OF THE TRANSKEI BY THE US AS A MAJOR CONTRIBUTION TO INTERNATIONAL RESPECTABILITY FOR SEPARATE DEVELOPMENT. SO FAR THE US HAS MADE NO DECISION ON RECOGNITION, ALTHOUGH CONFIDENTIAL

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WE HAVE EXPRESSED THE VIEW THAT THE HOMELANDS POLICY IS UNFAIR FOR BLACK SOUTH AFRICANS.

PRIME MINISTER JONATHAN REJECTS SOUTH AFRICA'S HOMELANDS POLICY AND DOES NOT PLAN TO RECOGNIZE THE INDEPENDENCE OF THE TRANSKEI. LESOTHO HAS A TERRITORIAL CLAIM AGAINST SOUTH AFRICA WHICH INCLUDES PART OF THE TRANSKEI. IN HIS JUNE MESSAGE, FOREIGN MINISTER MOLAPO ASKED US TO INTERCEDE WITH THE SOUTH AFRICANS TO DELAY TRANSKEI INDEPENDENCE UNTIL LESOTHO'S CLAIM COULD BE SETTLED.

JONATHAN RECENTLY SAID THAT HE REGARDS SOUTH AFRICA AS A

SINGLE, UNIFIED STATE, THAT HIS GOVERNMENT REJECTS THE CONTINUATION OF A WHITE MINORITY GOVERNMENT IN SOUTH

AFRICA, AND THAT LESOTHO GIVES ITS FULL SUPPORT TO MAJORITY
RULE THERE. HE ADDED THAT WITH MAJORITY RULE IN SOUTH
AFRICA, LESOTHO WOULD CONSIDER ENTERING INTO A FEDERAL

RELATIONSHIP OR EVEN BECOMING AN INTEGRAL PART OF A UNIFIED
SOUTH AFRICA.

YOUR TALKING POINTS

-- WE HAVE NOT MADE A DECISION ON RECOGNIZING THE TRANSKEI,
BUT WILL CERTAINLY TAKE INTO CONSIDERATION YOUR VIEWS AND
THOSE OF OTHER AFRICAN LEADERS.

-- WE WOULD BE CONCERNED ABOUT PUTTING A STAMP OF APPROVAL
ON TAKING AWAY SOUTH AFRICAN NATIONALITY FROM PEOPLE WHO
HAVE ALWAYS LIVED THERE, AND ABOUT THE LACK OF GEOGRAPHIC
COHERENCE OF THE OTHER PRINCIPAL HOMELANDS.

-- WE ARE KEEPING AN OPEN MIND ON THIS QUESTION
AND HAVE IT UNDER STUDY. ROBINSON

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TO AMEMBASSY NAIROBI NIACT IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 236780

FOR AMBASSADOR MARSHALL

FOLLOWING REPEAT STATE 236780 SENT ACTION LONDON IMMEDIATE
INFO MASERU PRIORITY SEP 24

QUOTE

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Margaret P. Grafeld
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EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

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